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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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I can not stand by a let those who are not inside the software "industry" as I am blather on about how Microsoft did not take any steps to suppress and/or eliminate competition.

OK, I'm a software techo-geek. I've been writing, using, and debugging software for 42 years. Most of those years were spent writing compilers, compiler building tools, and related utility programs like debuggers, linkers, and assemblers. In one of my previous jobs, we wanted to port a C compiler to the Windows environment. It compiled code that ran twice as fast as that compiled by the latest and greatest Microsoft offering. Our problem was that we had to take heroic measures to test our compiled code. Why? Microsoft will not and will not release the specifications of the object code that their system supports - the format that their linker accepts and their libraries contain.

Other compiler teams have faced the same problem. Some with deeper pockets than ours reverse engineered the Microsoft object code formats. That worked fine until Microsoft "improved" the formats, requiring another round of reverse engineering. Eventually, most gave up - just as Microsoft intended.

Who loses? Everyone who wants to create efficient programs to run in the Windows environment. First hand, that's not many of you, but second hand, as users of the programs that are available, that's most of you out there.

Oh sure, there's the example of Borland, who bit the bullet and created their own complete closed system with its own unique set of file formats and libraries. One counter example with very deep pockets. All of the others eventually have given up chasing a sequence of "new and improved" Microsoft secret file formats. I'm sure that there are those in other niches of the software world who can tell similar stories about the Microsoft predator. Let's hear them!

Then there's Windows, or is that Windoze? It is the most bug ridden, unstable, sophomoric, "designed" by trial and error, half-baked piece of crap that masquerades as "operating system" that I've seen in my 42 years in the industry. I could go on and tell you what I really think!

Windoze usually hangs trying to shut itself down. Often, a crashing program destroys system information. One that I see a lot is that the ESCAPE key's meaning is altered. Guess what the "solution" is. Yep, yet another reboot. This on a machine that has hardware to protect the data of one program from all other programs! The "system" doesn't even protect its own vital data! It stores vital resource use information in fixed size 65,536 byte buffers. Program crashes often trash even them. Normal use overfills them.

As far as I'm concerned, UNIX is "the" operating system. OS/2 was great (after its initial teething problems) until Microsoft cut IBM off from the details of Windows 95 that they needed to be able to run the new generation of Microsoft tools - like Word and Excel. Denial of information necessary to competitors. Does that sound familiar?

I say, break up Microsoft, and make the various parts tell the others and all aspiring competitors the details of the file formats and API's. How many pieces? At least three: Windows, Applications, and Development Tools.